Core 6 Social Studies

CLASS EXPECTATIONS 2016-2017

**Mr. McGinnis – Elements – Room 512**

**email—(FASTEST, MOST RELIABLE COMMUNICATION): phillip.mcginnis@vbschools.com phone: 757-648-4950**

**Course Description:** Core 6 Social Studies covers the history of the United States from Pre-Columbian times through the Civil War. The students will have the opportunity to extend previous studies of Virginia and American History through in-depth examination of the political, economic, social and cultural development of our nation. A more detailed course description for Core 6 Social Studies and other middle school subjects may be found at the following link: <http://www.vbschools.com/curriculum/middle/index.asp>

**Text and Materials:** All students will have access during each social studies class to ‘Google Chromebook’ laptops. Much of the ‘textbook’ content is contained in an online resource called Classroom Learning in Context (CLiC). Within this resource, students can find various readings to support classroom lessons and research. In addition, our students will be using the online ‘Google Classroom’ program to organize and complete most of their work. These may be accessed online by students at home as well. If internet access is problematic, then students may attend PAMS Homework Center either in the morning (7:40 - 9:00AM) or afternoon (3:55 - 5:30PM) and use the available technology there. Finally, selected files may be accessed on my class webpage on Wikispace: [http://pams-mcginnis.wikispace.com/](http://pams-campbell.wikispaces.com/)

**Assignment Information:** For daily updates, please see the Princess Anne Middle School ‘homepage’: [www.princessannems.vbschools.com](http://www.princessannems.vbschools.com)and choose **“My School Mail.”** Find our team name, Elements, and click in the ‘subscribe’ box next to our team name. You will receive a confirmation email. Don’t see it? Please check your ‘junk’ email file. ☺ You will receive daily e-mail listings of homework and other important information such as upcoming tests and quizzes listed for each teacher each day. *Regardless of this service, students are still expected to copy assignments and due/test dates into their PAMS Planner*. ***(You may also want to sign up for other emails on this page, including PAMS and PTA newsletters.)***

**Student Grades:** Students will be assessed in many ways to accommodate a variety of learning styles. Both formative and summative assessments will be utilized to measure learning. Observation, discussion, graphic organizers, collaborative work with individual accountability, quizzes, tests, performance assessments, self-evaluation, and written assignments are methods of assessment. Some of these may need to be finished at home. Each grade will be posted online and assigned a weight varying from 1 (most common) up to 3 (tests and major projects). In order to maintain focus on required work, extra credit will not be provided. Parents should sign up for ‘Parent Portal’ (Signup directions on Princess Anne Middle School homepage), which is updated regularly and may be used to see the running average of grades. New grades are generally added each week. Please do not hesitate to share questions or concerns.

**Grading Scale:**  Princess Anne Middle School utilizes the city-wide grading scale located here: <http://www.vbschools.com/gradescale2010/>

**Homework:** This work is generally either completion of work begun but not finished in class or a review of classwork in preparation for quizzes and tests. It is highly recommended that students complete homework the night of the class rather than waiting until the next night before their block. For example, students with A-Day social studies who have class on a Monday should complete their work Monday night rather than waiting until Tuesday before Wednesday’s lesson.

**Missing/Late Work:** Students are strongly encouraged and supported to complete assignments on time and according to high quality standards. *Students who do not submit work may be assigned to ‘RECALL’ (Academic Detention) at the teacher’s discretion.* Detention would be assigned for the Wednesday afternoon (4:00-5:30PM) following the date of the missing assignment. Students may ride the activity bus home. Every effort will be made to encourage and assist students to complete all work. In the event that students choose not to complete their work a zero may be assigned.

**Revised Work:** Students will have the opportunity to redo certain assignments and retake certain tests to demonstrate increased mastery. Conditions are at the teacher’s discretion. Tests may only be retaken once following review procedures assigned by the teacher. In order to preserve classroom time, retakes generally occur before or after the school day and by advance appointment with the teacher.

**Makeup Work:** Makeup work is due as soon as practical after student absence. Assignment information for makeup work will generally be available on the student’s Google Class account. *Students are strongly encouraged to complete makeup work as soon as possible*. With regard to work in advance, students should plan on checking their Google Classroom account to remain current.

**Supply List:** One 2-3 inchBinder (with a tabbed divider section for social studies) with wide ruled loose leaf paper, sharpened pencils, and pens that write in either blue or black ink.

**Agendas:** The school will supply a planner/agenda for use in student organization and as a hall pass.

*Students are required to carry their Student Agenda at all times*. ***If lost or damaged the planner*** ***must be replaced at student expense ($8)***. The planners contain information about school and division policies, some academic information, a calendar for organization, and space throughout to serve as a hall pass.

**Contributions of the Following to Share with the Core would be greatly appreciated:** Paper towels, tissues, glue sticks, hand-sanitizer or disinfectant wipes. *It is not intended that you contribute these to each class; contributions to homerooms will be shared by the core.*

**Student Personal Technology Usage:** Please access the Princess Anne Middle School website to learn more about the PAMS ‘Bring Your Own Device Policy’ (BYOD).  Students are welcome to bring devices such as laptops, tablets and smartphones for school use. Of course, in social studies each student will have daily access to the Google Chromebook laptop.  **IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR STUDENTS TO OWN/BRING A PERSONAL DEVICE** in order to work online at school.

**Procedures for Conferences /Parent Contact:** If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me through e-mail **(preferred)** or by phone using the contact information provided above. I will make every attempt to respond as soon as possible. Conferences are arranged through the guidance department and held 8:40-9:00 AM in the Guidance office with all relevant staff.

**Citizenship Expectations**: Students are expected to follow the Virginia Beach City Public Schools/Princess Anne Middle School Code of Conduct located in the student agendas. It is most important that students are prepared for each class with appropriate supplies and assignments, treat others with respect, and follow teacher/staff directions. Every effort is made to reinforce positive conduct. Consequences for inappropriate behavior include, verbal warning, behavior reflections to be signed by a parent or guardian, notification to parents/guardians, and detention *(8:30-9:00AM).* In cases of serious misbehavior or if students do not respond to the teacher’s efforts with chronic issues, a referral to guidance and/or office referrals will be made with subsequent consequences to be determined by the administration team.